



The Arboretum Bulletin



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GOOD NEWS FOR GARDEN LOVERS

On Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14, a garden tour of six of the finest gardens in the Highlands (the home of fine gardens) will be made. Tickets are now on sale at Arboretum headquarters, 6620 White Building, Seattle. The price for the complete tour is one dollar. Here is your rare chance to see some of the Highland's loveliest gardens. Don't fail to take advantage of it.

PLEASE HURRY WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION

The carload of fine and rare rhododendrons and azaleas which C. O. Dexter of Massachusetts so magnanimously contributed to the Arboretum has arrived, and the shrubs are now in the Arboretum Nursery. . . . BUT the freight charges are yet to be paid. The Arboretum Foundation has no funds to meet this expense and is asking for contributions from individuals and organizations to defray the expense. If you have not yet sent in your contribution won't you please do so at once. Make checks payable to Arboretum Foundation and mail to headquarters, 6620 White Building, Seattle.

ANOTHER ARBORETUM TOUR

On May 6th, starting at 10 a. m., there will be another tour through the Arboretum for the benefit of those who wish to make the trip under the guidance of representatives of the Arboretum, thoroughly familiar with the work which has been done to date and that which is planned for the future. According to advices received at Arboretum headquarters a number of out-of-town visitors to the city will take advantage of the opportunity to visit the Arboretum grounds, and they are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Arboretum Foundation to be held in the evening at Anderson Hall, University of Washington. A feature of this

meeting will be an illustrated garden lecture by Norvell Gillespie, able young Garden Editor of Sunset Magazine.

PROPAGATING RHODODENDRONS AND AZALEAS

One of the most important functions of the Arboretum is the propagation of choice and unusual plants. In this manner not only will the species rhododendron collection be augmented but the finer hybrids can and will be developed at much less cost than by purchasing them abroad. The rhododendron committee of the Arboretum maintains a special fund for propagation purposes and through the contributions of the five Lake Washington garden club units, the late Mrs. R. D. Merrill and the Home Garden Club, some two hundred of the finest English and Dutch hybrids have been grafted on special understock. This delicate work calls for the services of an expert, hence it has been turned over to Endre Ostbo, of Medina, whose ability along these lines is outstanding.

The scions were donated by members of the Arboretum's Rhododendron Committee and other growers of finer rhododendrons. Among those already propagated are such lovely ones as Pink Pearl (rose pink fading to flushed), Rosa Mundi (pale pink), Unknown Warrior (bright red), Mrs. E. C. Stirling (blush pink), Corona (coral pink), C. B. Van Nes (dark scarlet), Lady Primrose (lemon yellow, red spots), Cynthia (rose crimson), Butterfly (pale lemon with chocolate blotch), Essex Scarlet (deep crimson scarlet), Purple Splendor (deep purple, black spot), Souvenir of W. C. Slocock (primrose yellow), Leonardslee variety of Luscombei (soft pink).

This important propagation work will continue as long as funds are available. If you are interested in giving it your assistance you are asked to communicate with Mr. Herbert Ihrig, Chairman of the Rhododendron Committee of the Arboretum, under whose direction this valuable work is being carried on, or you are invited to send your contribution direct to Arboretum Foundation headquarters, 6620 White Building, Seattle.

THANKS—

The Arboretum wishes to acknowledge its thanks to G. Wright Arnold and the Northern Pacific Railway for furnishing ten carloads of much needed cinders for Arboretum paths.

MORE RHODODENDRON SERIES SPONSORED

The Rhododendron Ferrugineum series which includes *R. ferrugineum* and *R. hirsutum* have been sponsored by the Coterie Club of Seattle. These two rhododendrons come from the mountains of Southern Europe, above 4,000 feet, and are known as the Alpine Roses of the Alps. *R. ferrugineum* is a small shrub and bears flowers of purplish rose. *R. hirsutum*, with flowers of rose to nearly scarlet, is said to come from the limestone regions and is able to endure calcareous soil.

The Mercer Island Garden Club has sponsored the Fulvum series. The rhododendrons of this series come from Yunnan, Southeastern Tibet and Burma. Included in the series is *R. fulvum*, a handsome shrub or small tree with white or white flushed rose to deep rose flowers, blotched and spotted with crimson. It grows in the thicket and margin of forests in West Yunnan at an elevation of 8,000-11,000 feet. Another of the series, *R. fulvoides*, which comes from the pine and rhododendron forests of Northwest Yunnan at an elevation of 13,000 feet, reaches a height of eight to twenty feet. Its flowers are white or white flushed rose with a crimson blotch.

SPOKANE GARDEN CLUB BUYS LILACS FOR ARBORETUM

The Spokane Garden Club, which plans to make Spokane the Lilac City of the United States, has most generously contributed sixty dollars for the purchase of lilacs for the Arboretum. The purchase has already been made, the lilacs planted and those who visit the Arboretum within the next few weeks will have the very great pleasure of seeing them in bloom.

(In an early issue of THE ARBORETUM BULLETIN interesting and valuable information concerning the proper growing and care of lilacs will appear.)

GIFTS FOR THE ARBORETUM

The Arboretum continues to receive gifts of many fine plants and seeds from public spirited persons as well as from other arboretums throughout the country. The outstanding gifts during the past month have been the Tenny collection of rhododendrons and a carload of rare rhododendrons and azaleas from Mr. Charles O. Dexter of Massachusetts. The Dexter gift will be treated in detail in a later issue of THE ARBORETUM BULLETIN.

The fine Tenny collection came to the Arboretum, as a gift through the Seattle Garden Club from Mrs. Tenny, widow of the late Dr. Tenny. It comprises close to nine hundred plants and includes such fine rhododendron species as *Augustini*, *Yunnanense*, *Schlippenbachii*, *Lutescens*, *Arborescens*, *Cinnabarinum*, *Decorum*, *Rubiginosum* and *Ciliatum*. All of these species are given what is known as star ratings by the Rhododendron Association, recognized as the world's highest authority on rhododendrons.

The Tenny gift was formally accepted by the Arboretum at a special ceremony, which took place on Tuesday, April 26 on Arboretum grounds, close to where the rhododendrons have been planted. Mrs. Anna Thomson Millburn, President of the Seattle Garden Club; Dr. Lee Paul Sieg, President of the University, and Dr. Hugo Winkenwerder made fitting remarks concerning Mrs. Tenny's fine gift. Later at a reception held at the Broadmoor home of Mrs. Tom Mesdag, President Thomas Gleed of the Arboretum Foundation, gave those present interesting information concerning the progress, and Mr. Herbert Ihrig paid tribute to the late Dr. Tenny for having pioneered the introduction of better specie rhododendrons into the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Fulmer, Mr. A. E. Koepfli, Fred Leissler, Camp Fire Girls of America, W. G. Corbett of Mendocino, Calif., Morris Arboretum, Morton Arboretum, University of Washington Garden of Pharmacy, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens and others have made gifts of plants and seeds during the past month.

GREAT SERVICE RENDERED BY ARBORETUMS

We may obtain some very definite ideas as to the service which the University of Washington Arboretum will ere long be able to render to the people and communities of the Pacific Northwest by considering some of the fine work which has been performed by other Arboretums of the United States.

In a recent issue of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, Stanley C. Salmien points out the fact that the Arnold Arboretum is one of Harvard's most active agencies in serving the public. While the 6500 species and varieties of trees and shrubs in Arnold attract hundreds of thousands of visitors annually the scientific work of the members of the Arboretum staff is even more impressive.

Since the first Director, Professor Charles S. Sargent, took charge many years ago Arnold Arboretum has been in search of ornamental woody plants suitable for cultivation in the northern part of the United States.

To secure these new varieties it was necessary to employ the services of collectors in Japan, India, Burma, the Malay Peninsula, China, New Guinea, Congo, British Guiana, and Mexico. Seeds of hardy species so obtained are carefully propagated and tested to determine whether they can sur-

vive in the rigorous climate of New England. Those known to be tender are sent to the Atkins Institution in Cuba and to southern states for cultivation. Seeds and cuttings from desirable species are then made available to more than 500 nurserymen and landscape architects who may develop the commercial possibilities of these introductions. Last year about 6,000 scions and living plants were sent all over the United States and to England, France, and Germany, and more than 1,500 packets of seeds were distributed throughout the world.

Arnold Arboretum's staff helped to save an important part of the nursery business of the Atlantic Coast a few years ago by discovering that seedling conifers, victims of a blight, in the form of a fungus, completely protected by snow, could be saved by using a spray of lime sulphur. These same scientists discovered a method for control of the cedar apple rust which was so destructive that eleven states passed laws enabling farmers to demand that all red cedars be removed from an area within a half mile of any commercial orchard. This discovery saved the orchards as well as the red cedars.

Another valuable contribution of the Arboretum scientists was a discovery that a certain oriental crabtree, which keeps its fruit throughout the winter, tended to attract bird-life, with the result that hundreds of thousands of seeds of this tree were planted throughout New England, furnishing fine food throughout the winter for birds which would have otherwise suffered from winter hunger, perished or sought a home elsewhere.

It was the discovery of Arnold Arboretum scientists that caused nurserymen to abandon the custom of producing lilacs by grafting lilac roots on the stems of hedge privet. This method was much more rapid than using all lilac stock and growth was good during the first two years, but after that time the foliage on more than half of the plants withered and the shoots died. Loss fell on customers and lilac sales dropped. Investigation at the Arboretum showed that the unsatisfactory plants had failed to send down lilac roots from the grafted shoot, and that the privet roots were not capable of feeding a lilac tree. The old practice stopped and nurserymen now advertise that their stock is grown on lilac roots.

Arnold Arboretum has shared with Government and other agencies the honor of discovering and working out control methods for the Dutch elm disease, which for a time threatened to destroy the beautiful elm trees of the Atlantic Coast. At present the disease has been eradicated from all but the region within fifty miles of New York City, and a decrease of twenty-five per cent was reported there last year.

BIRD LIFE IN THE ARBORETUM

By S. F. RATHBUN

The University of Washington Arboretum is a most

praiseworthy project; it cannot be commended too highly, or be given too much assistance.

Because of the amount of development work already done in connection with it, the Arboretum has now reached that stage where one can plainly see the benefit that Seattle, and in an indirect way the state, will eventually derive from it; not because it may for many persons satisfy a longing for one phase of what is beautiful in nature, but it represents something that will in an emphatic and most desirable way attract attention to this city, and therefore the design can be regarded as a valuable asset.

On account of the requirements of the plan a marked change has been made in the former physical features of the area chosen for the Arboretum; or, as may be said, the area in use has lost what little it had retained of its former natural condition. And because of this change, the writer has been asked to give an opinion regarding what might be the effect in the future on the birdlife of the area, when this is compared to that of the past; also mention a few of the species of birds which he thought would be affected.

As a reply, we can offer only a guess. But that there will be a change is quite certain; for the environment of any section has a decided effect in determining what will represent its birdlife. At the time the locality now utilized by the Arboretum was more or less in a natural condition, some of it was very dense and had a heavy and varied undergrowth. Therefore certain birds, such as the Russet-backed Thrush, the Western Winter Wren, the Golden Warbler, Macgillivray's Warbler, all good examples, and possibly some few others somewhat partial to the places overgrown, will not be found when the cover which they liked is lacking. The area as it formerly existed had in spots quite dense growths of conifers, and this was an attraction for other kinds of birds, some of which may not frequent the transformed section. But it's fair to ask, will not the missing birds have a replacement? Quite likely so, and among the newcomers should be the Willow Goldfinch, the California Yellow Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, with the California Purple Finch, to mention a few. Because of the many deciduous trees within the area, an increase in the number of the Western Warbling Vireos should follow. And by no means least, there should be very many Rufous Hummingbirds. Of course other birds could easily be named but lack of space prevents. One thing is quite certain though, the beautiful Arboretum will have its full share of the birds.

Further, if plantings are made of those certain trees and shrubs that when fruiting have a profusion of berries and seeds which represent food for the birds, many more will come to the locality. So, even in the light of the strong changes which have been made in the section chosen for the Arboretum, we can see no reason why it will not be a favored locality for birdlife, making an added attractiveness to a most worthwhile project.

